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CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE

Digest

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PIONEERS HONOR SIMON MERETSKY

Simon Meretsky, Guest of Honor; Ray Lewis, President of the Canadian Motion Picture Pioneers; Hon. Paul Martin, M.P., Minister of Health and National Welfare, at the Pioneers' Testimonial Dinner for Simon Meretsky, King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

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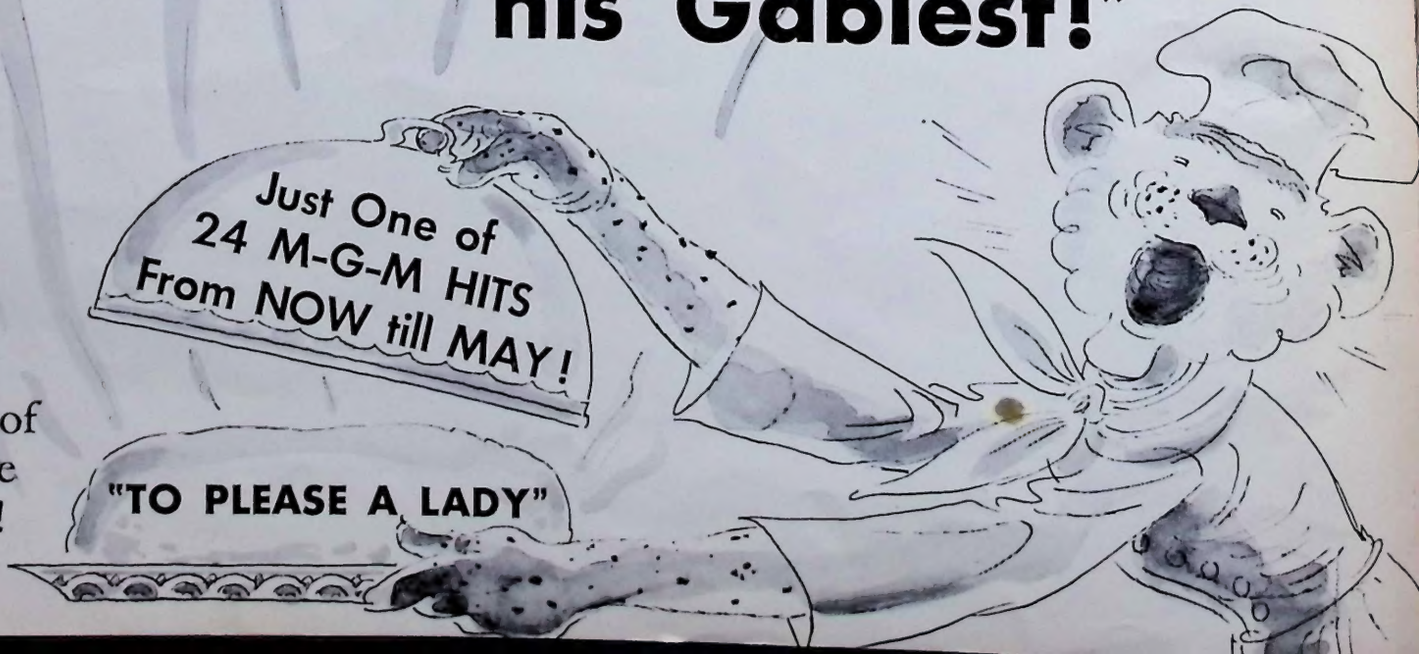

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MEDIATHÈQUE Guy-E.-Coté 12 SEP. 2014

RAY PRESENTS

THE Canadian Picture Pioneers Testimonial Dinner to Simon Meretsky on Wednesday, November 1st, Crystal Ballroom, King Edward Hotel, was an outstanding event in our Canadian motion picture history, with an attendance of approximately 350 guests representing all branches of our Industry, and their friends, and with members present from the Federal and Provincial Houses of Parliament including Cabinet Ministers. A large number of members of our Industry, and personal friends of Simon Meretsky attended the dinner from Windsor, Ont., and from Detroit, and in attendance also were a number of exhibitors from different cities and towns in Ontario, including Pioneer-members from Quebec, Manitoba and the Maritimes.

The Pioneers accomplished a three-fold objective in this Testimonial Dinner to a Pioneer-Life-Member, who was retiring from active participation in the Motion Picture Industry. One important objective can best be summed up in Simon's own words when he said, at the opening of his address, "Some people get a lot of flowers when they are dead, I am smelling them now."

I have frequently told our industry, which has in the last few years become conscious of the fact that there was much to be desired in the matter of its Public Relations, that when we members of the industry begin to respect each other, and to express such respect, that in the measure of our appreciation for what we represent, we in turn will have measured out to us, from those who are not members of our industry, a measure of respect. This was another objective.

WE ARE very much in need of developing a sense of appreciation for each other, and the lack of this sense of appreciation is a weakness within ourselves which I have found difficult to understand. Show people are by nature the most generous, the most charitable, and yet the most jealous of each other's services and success, so it appears.

This jealousy may be due to a feeling of insecurity for no man is secure economically who is an employee, and particularly does such insecurity make itself felt when a man or a woman reaches an age which makes them feel that they are getting old.

However, the greater percentage of people who work for their daily needs are employees, and the world of economics is so constituted that the bosses are the minority and the workers the majority.

This does not mean that bosses are not also workers; some there are who work longer hours, and much harder than their employees, and among these are many who do not draw the weekly wage for their services which some of their employees earn. In addition, such bosses have the added responsibility of providing the employment for their workers, and the necessary finances to keep the business in operation.

A WORKER who still feels young enough to do a good job, who is in good health, is somewhat like a prima donna who never feels that her voice will not continue to draw a large attendance to the stage or concert hall to hear her sing, and who never feels that her glamour will dim. Therefore, this feeling of jealousy, akin to fear, may not be the basis of that feeling in our industry which inclines men and women to take for granted any services or success which may be achieved by its individual members, and which inclines some of these people to knock rather than to boost each other.

I have observed in various associations which we have formed, a small group of people who give everything they have to such an organization; they speed it by their own steam, and at considerable personal sacrifice to its established success, only to have some of its members develop a feeling that such persons are trying to run the association, and they begin an underground movement to depose them from any office which they may hold.

I have observed some leaders who willingly give up their offices, and turn the management and direction of an association over to other members who, having achieved the distinction of office, soon grow lax and weary of the job, because they lack the fire and devotion which the pioneers of an association have had to sustain them in their services.

I CAN say that in the planning for the Pioneers Testimonial Dinner, there was an undercurrent of obstruction, but among those who were real obstructionists, and others who were conspicuously negative "they came to scoff but remained to pray," for I again repeat, objectively, that no motion picture public event in which this industry of ours has participated was a better organized and better managed event than was the Testimonial Dinner to Simon Meretsky, and no motion picture event furnished a better example of good public relations.

Commencing with the cocktail party in the reception room adjoining the Crystal Ballroom of the King Edward Hotel, of which Stuart Fleming of St. Catharines was the Chairman Host for a group of Famous Players partners, the Testimonial Dinner began to show the pattern of conviviality which was sustained during the entire evening.

ASSOCIATED Screen News Ltd. had sent a crew of their cameramen, with equipment, to take a moving picture of the event, and these cameramen and their director were busy taking shots during the entire evening, some I believe in colour. B. E. Norrish, President of Associated Screen News Ltd., is a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, and he and Bill Singleton, General Manager of this company, who was present at the Testimonial Dinner, have always been conspicuous in their support of the Canadian Picture Pioneers. Bill Singleton is immediate past-president of the Montreal Division of the Pioneers and B. E. Norrish is an officer of the Finance Committee of the Pioneers' Montreal Division of the Benevolent Fund.

Year after year, Associated Screen News has sent cameramen to record on film the annual meetings of the Pioneers, and other important Pioneer events, giving thousands of dollars in free services, and thousands of dollars of raw stock both for the making of negatives and the manufacturing of prints, and this company has not only made the negatives, but furnished the prints for our Pioneers' motion picture subject, the title of which is "As Others See Us."

Some of our pioneers, who have been recorded on film at Pioneer functions, are no longer with us, but this industry has a living record of them, how they looked and what they had to say, for which the Pioneers are most grateful to Associated Screen News Ltd. for their generosity and cooperation.

THE special guests and speakers were seated at two head tables, and special tables were reserved for other important guests, including several tables for the Simon Meretsky family and Simon's friends who came from

(Continued on Page 11)

Toronto and District

BILL PRESS

THE 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. has supplied The Jackpot, starring James Stewart and Barbara Hale, for its Canadian premiere as the screen attraction of the benefit show at the Palace Theatre, Hamilton, Sunday night, Nov. 12, under the auspices of the Hamilton Theatre Managers Association.

The vaudeville program is topped by Don Cornell, recording artist, Senator Murphy, the comedian, Helene and Howard, dancers, and the Seven Marvels, acrobatic troupe. The proceeds go to Variety Village.

* * *

The Eternal Melody, starring Martha Eggerth and Jan Kiepura, opened an engagement Oct. 27 at the Community Theatre, Hamilton's art-film centre.

Local interest was added because of the presence in the cast of Douglas Dumbrille, a native of Hamilton. The dialogue of the picture, which features the music of La Boheme, is in Englih.

* * *

When Stars In My Crown played the Lyric Theatre, Kitchener, a number of local testimonials from prominent people were used in the display advertising and otherwise.

Len Bishop, manager of Shea's, Toronto, connected with two out of three photos he entered in the Hadassah Bazaar annual beautiful child contest. In competition with 300 other snappers, Bishop's photographs of John Rothschild and Denise Romberg won prizes.

We hear with regret of the death of Len's father, the late Nathan Bishop, of Los Angeles.

* * *

Friends will be glad to hear that George Degnon has made some recovery from his recent heart attack. He is still in St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto, with a 'No visitors' sign on the door.

* * *

Manager Claude Hunter of the Odeon Theatre, Peterborough, has a nice tie-up with the Deyell retail store for a half-hour radio show from the theatre stage on Saturday morning in connection with the Movie Club performance.

* * *

Prior to its first-run opening in the city of Toronto, All About Eve was given a sneak preview at the Village Theatre as part of the Thursday-night series of unannounced pictures. The comments were highly encouraging.

AT THE MPTAO ANNUAL MEETING

TOP: Mr. & Mrs. Lou Consky of Haliburton, Max Consky, Joseph De Paul, Princess, Sault Ste. Marie, Lionel Lester of National Booking, Frank Hannan Jr., Windsor, Harry Kaufman of Cardinal, Mark Plottel of Empire-Universal and Donn Stapleton of the Centre, Ottawa.

BOTTOM: Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Taylor of Twentieth-Century theatres; Samuel Fine of B&F theatres; Ray Lewis, Editor of the Digest; Morris Stein, Eastern Division Supervisor of Famous Players.

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WILL McLAUGHLIN.....Ottawa, Ont.
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WINNIPEG NEWS

J. J. CONKLIN

Frank Vaughan, Toronto, General Manager of Monogram, spent three weeks in Western Canada visiting his representatives in Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver, and conferring with theatre managers. He spent a few days with Phil Geller, manager of Monogram Films in Winnipeg. Mr. Vaughan was formerly manager of Universal Film Exchange in Winnipeg and in Calgary.

Harold A. Bishop, supervisor in Winnipeg of Famous Players Corporation, is spending a week in Los Angeles, attending the funeral of his father, Nathan Bishop, a former resident of Winnipeg, who died in the film capital Nov. 1st. Leonard Bishop, for many years manager of theatres in Hamilton, Ont., now a resident of Toronto, is a second son.

Kind Hearts and Coronets had a two weeks' run at the Odeon recently. Destination Moon had a three weeks' run at the Garrick. The unprecedented fine fall weather had enabled the three drive-in theatres in Winnipeg district to attract large crowds at this late season.

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Television Production To Begin In Ontario Immediately

Production of filmed television programs in Canada for international distribution is to be tested here almost immediately, Colonel the Honourable William Griesinger, Ontario Minister of Planning and Development, announced.

A preliminary group of pictures, to be shot simultaneously in color and in black and white, will be filmed in Ontario, following which their acceptability as television entertainment will be tested by actual use in four key markets, including the United States.

The announcement follows approximately one year's research and investigation by U.S. and Canadian interests at the instigation of the Ontario Trade and Industry Branch. F. J. Lyle, director of this branch, stated that film production in the entertainment field in Ontario is long overdue, and he expressed confidence that the establish- of this new industry would lead to permanent activity in this field in Ontario.

The test production will be a joint U.S.-Canadian undertaking under an agreement completed this week by the Doherty theatrical interests and Geo. A. Hirliman of New York, well-known producer of theatrical and television films.

Mr. Hirliman, veteran film executive with long experience as a producer and distributor, is best known in the TV industry as the man who brought to television the "Hopalong Cassidy" series. Starting over NBC as standard cowboy drama, the series developed a high popularity rating.

The Doherty group is headed by D'Arcy Doherty, head of the Toronto Stock Exchange firm of Doherty, Roadhouse & Co., and his brother, Brian Doherty, Canadian stage producer and playwright. The latter's most recent production, "One for the Road," opens a Canadian tour in Ottawa on November 6th. Production offices of the new organization will be located in Toronto at 72 Grenville Street.

The program of test productions will start in November. Longer-range plans for the establishment of this new type of film-making on a permanent basis will depend on the results of this first effort. The exact location of the production centre, in that event, has not been finally settled as yet, but it will be in Ontario. Both the Ottawa and Toronto areas, as well as others, have been under consideration.

Mr. Hirliman said that film production facilities already operating in Ontario were adaptable to television.

"Television films involve production techniques which differ from motion pictures made either for theatrical or commercial use," he said, "and therefore call for additional equipment and technicians."

For the first Canadian production, extra equipment and a small group of U.S. television technicians will be brought here.

Holliday Re-elected

E. F. Holliday, of the Saskatchewan film board, Regina, was re-elected chairman of the Regina branch, children's film library. Other officers include R. E. Johnson, Walter Harris, D. R. Henderson and Mrs. A. H. Munro. The committee, organized in November, 1949, will again sponsor Saturday morning film and radio shows in Regina's Famous Players theatres.

Trio Sets B.O. Record

The kick-off of W. Somerset Maugham's Trio at the Hyland Theatre in Toronto, Canada, on Monday, October 30, proved the biggest non-holiday opening day gross in the history of the house, it was announced by Max E. Youngstein, Vice-President in Charge of National Advertising, Publicity and Exploitation for Paramount Pictures Corp.

The figures for the record-breaking opening were bettered on the second day, and an all-time weekly high for the theatre is in prospect if the present pace is maintained, according to Youngstein.

Trio, a J. Arthur Rank production, is being released in the Western Hemisphere through Paramount Film Distributing Corp.

E. P. Fields Dies

Manager of the Capitol Theatre, Moose Jaw, for 33 years, and a member of the Famous Players 25-year club, E. P. Fields, 69, died Oct. 31 in a Moose Jaw hospital. He had been seriously ill for some weeks. Funeral service was held Nov. 2 at Moose Jaw.

Born in England, Mr. Fields came to Canada in 1906, settling in Winnipeg. He moved to Moose Jaw in 1913 after having started theatre business in the Allen Theatre, Regina, under J. D. Watson, now of the Rex and Grand Regina.

Mr. Fields was a veteran of the South African War.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Marjorie and Doreen, and one son, Cyril, all of Moose Jaw.

Vancouver News

JACK DROY

A $150,000 four-screen drive-in theatre may be built in Saanich a few miles from Victoria on Vancouver Island. B. M. Chechick, owner of the Bay Theatre in Vancouver, has applied to Council for rezoning of 52 acres from a business zone to allow operation of the outdoor theatre. Council has decided to call a public hearing on the question of allowing the theatre. 10 to 15 acres would be required for the drive-in which, being a four-screen enterprise, will be entirely new for Canada. The entire area would be landscaped and 300 seats would be provided for walk-ins, Chechick said.

Carmen Gentile, Lux Theatre manager, was run down by an automobile on a downtown street; in hospital for a few days, he is now back at the Lux.

Frank McKenzie, Alma Theatre manager, is doubling in brass helping out at the Orpheum downtowner who at the present are lacking an assistant manager. . . . Frank Hood of the Windsor Theatre on the sick list for six months has retired from show business. . . . Violet Bedford, cashier at Empire-Universal Films, is a very sick girl. . . . Jimmy Brown, projectionist at the Lux, a Canadian Picture Pioneer, on the sick list for five months is still unable to return to the Lux. Brown suffiered a stroke. . . . Projectionists Local 348 IATSE have opened a Projectionist Service Bureau in downtown Vancouver.

Bill Johns who is in charge of film bookings for H.M.C.S. Naden, the naval establishment near Victoria, has been promoted to petty officer, Johns was formerly a member of the 20th-Fox exchange in Vancouver.

Phyl Dixon who resigned from Eagle-Lion exchange is now in the office of a local furniture store. . . . Lloyd Pantages, operator at the Odeon-Hastings, is back from a hunting trip in the B.C. interior. He did not bring back any bear or deer but he has some tall tales to tell of the great outdoors. . . . Marge Brewer, assistant manager at the Vogue, has moved to the Odeon-Hastings in the same capacity. . . . Jake Jacobson, Pacific Coast IATSE representative, was in town from his Tacoma headquarters checking labor matters with 348 officials.

The 16 mm subject titled "Last Date," produced by Associated Screen News, was screened at the Canadian Educational convention held in Victoria, B.S., The short shows juveniles who are making the highways speedways to destruction.

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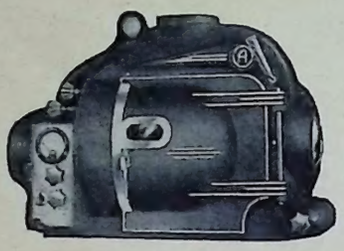

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TRADE HEADLINES

John Davis, JARO executive, in Toronto this week on regular visit.

•

World mourns death of George Bernard Shaw, at age of 94.

•

Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox due in Toronto for Canadian premiere of Odette early in December.

•

Judging of Digest Showmanship Contest entries Wednesday, November 8th — watch next week's Digest for announcement of winners.

•

Sam Katz buys into Stanley Kramer Co. — posts $2 million for operating capital — company will produce 20 pictures annually with Kramer as Exec. Producer.

•

Bosley Crowther (N.Y. Times) chairman M. P. Advertisers luncheon honoring Charles Brackett — returning to Hollywood, Brackett resigns from Paramount after 17 years association.

•

Allied of Eastern Pennsylvania refuses either moral or financial support to Compo.

•

City Hospital, Saskatoon, to be wired for TV in operating rooms.

•

Stromboli opens in Paris despite Rossellini injunction attempts.

•

State Dept. U.S. gives American film companies free access to screens of Germany — special educational value.

•

Alfred E. Daff becomes general sales manager of Universal.

•

William A Scully, V.-P. and general sales manager Universal resigns to become consultant.

•

20th-Fox takes group N.Y. metropolitan newspaper reviewers to London for Command Performance of The Mudlark.

•

NBC negotiating with David Selznick for 15 TV features to be produced.

•

County Court Marshall Texas fines W. L. Gelling $200 for showing Pinky at Paramount Theatre after being condemned by local censors.

•

Eagle-Lion Classics providing for TV rights in all contracts made with producers.

•

American films to get started again in Argentine after 18-month period of restrictions — business booming.

Lightstone Conducts Paramount Western Div. Meet In Winnipeg

Gordon Lightstone, Canadian General Manager, has just concluded the Western Canadian Divisional Meeting held in Winnipeg, Oct. 26-27. Managers, Salesmen and Booker-Salesmen from Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg were in attendance.

While the meeting was very informal, many pertinent subjects were discussed. First of all, the standings of the Canadian Offices in the "Golden Harvest of 1950" were gone over—all present were enthusiastic about the contest, not only because of the prize money being awarded but largely because it appeared that quota plus would be achieved.

The next important subject brought out by Gordon Lightstone was the handling and selling of TRIO. Most of those present had seen this outstanding production and all were enthusiastic about its box-office possibilities. The booking and handling of the picture from a publicity standpoint was thoroughly discussed. When the discussion on TRIO was finished, there wasn't a person present who doubted for a moment that they had a piece of merchandise that not only is an asset to the company but to the industry as well.

CASSINO TO KOREA was the next important subject. Mr. Lightstone threw the meeting open to obtain the individual opinions of the boys with respect to the selling and booking of CASSINO TO KOREA. Opinions and ideas were freely given and from this all, a policy was determined which will do justice to the production.

The regular release of SAMSON AND DELILAH was another important subject. Mr. Lightstone, again, went over the possibilities of SAMSON and stressed the proper handling and exploitation of the picture to ensure the exhibitor and company of a proper return.

Mr. Lightstone brought out a point of which we are all aware but which cannot be too strongly stressed—the loss of showmanship among the exhibitors. It is our job to re-instil the spirit of showmanship in the exhibitor for if he, the exhibitor, does better, so shall we, he said.

While certain pertinent subjects are stressed, the tenor of the meeting in all was very constructive. As mentioned above, the meeting was informal and in that spirit, the exchange of ideas is and will be a guiding line for future operations. In short, the meeting with Mr. Lightstone was inspiring to all and they left with the thought that they are all "PARAMOUNT."

A Schwalberg 10 percent Club was formed and everyone present agreed to increase their output by ten percent and dedicate it to Al Schwalberg who, if anything, has given to date, better than ten percent.

GORDON LIGHTSTONE

Ottawa Jeweller Fined on Treasure Hunt Charge

Counsel for Jack Snow, Ottawa jeweller, accused law enforcement agencies of "favoritism" as Snow pleaded guilty to operating a lottery in connection with the "Treasure Hunt" contest in his store.

The merchant was fined $50 for staging the contest which involved numbered keys. City police had halted the "hunt" for which $3,400 in prizes had been offered.

Snow's counsel said in the Magistrate's court that the same contest (originated by RKO as a tie-in with Treasure Island) had been operated without police interference in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver with the cooperation of the newspapers.

"This contest," said the counsel, "was operated by Mr. Snow in the belief that he was not committing an offense. It seems strange that an Ottawa newspaper which carried his advertisements exclusively, two theatres and two radio stations, all of which undertook to advertise the contest, are not also charged."

Mr. Beament also said that there were "many inconsistencies" in the lottery law as applied to Ottawa. Law enforcement groups "closed their eyes" to sale of raffle tickets for automobiles on the main street. Nothing was done about "monster bingos."

Earlier in the week, at the Motion Picture Theatres Ass'n. of Ontario annual meeting, the question of bingo was discussed. Archie Mason, President of the Maritime Exhibitors Ass'n. called Ottawa "the bingo hotbed of Canada" at that time. A letter from the Ottawa Theatre Managers Ass'n. was read to the assembly, asking for the support of the association in the sponsorship of monster bingos to be held in Ottawa theatres.

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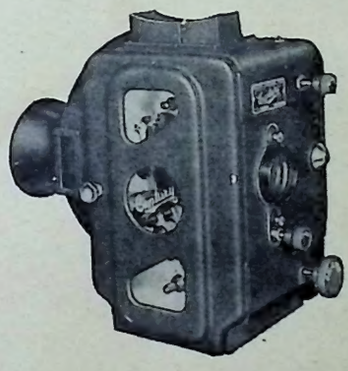

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Paramount Product

How

THE BOXOFFICE SCORE STANDS: Since early summer, Paramount has been hitting with a succession of outstanding attractions. First Hal Wallis' "My Friend Irma Goes West," then "Sunset Boulevard." This pace has been maintained with Bob Hope's "Fancy Pants," Hal Wallis' "The Furies," "Union Station," Hal Wallis' "Dark City" and now with "Copper Canyon."

What

THE COMING MONTHS WILL SHOW: Paramount has the hits ahead, too. Armistice Day, the U. S. Marines' story, "Tripoli"; Thanksgiving, Betty Hutton and Fred Astaire in "Let's Dance"; Christmas, Bing Crosby In "Mr. Music"; and early in the New Year, Alan Ladd in "Branded." From there on in, it's a fact:

Paramount Will Be The Big Gun In '51!

IF IT'S A PARAMOUNT PICTURE, IT'S THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN

Sunset Boulevard

FACT: One of the most discussed, praised and best performing pictures of the year. At Radio City Music Hall, it established the longest run since 1947—7 smash weeks.

Union Station

FACT: This thriller, from the Saturday Evening Post, is doing thrilling business everywhere. A plus to its name stars are 3 new stars furnishing fresh talent exhibitors are asking for.

Copper Canyon

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

FACT: The cast is big and the color spectacular in Paramount's western patterned after the famed boxoffice hit "California." It's now playing to the same handsome grosses.

Tripoli

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

FACT: This robust tribute to the United States Marines is set to thrill the nation Armistice Day. First of 180 pre-release dates in four exchange areas are reporting fine results.

Mr. Music

FACT: This is Bing Crosby's show of shows and it's yours for the Christmas holidays . . . with more hit songs and more big-name stars than any Crosby picture you've played in years.

The Goldbergs

FACT: Radio's favorite family for 20 years (favorites now on TV, too) will make their first screen appearance early in '51, with the famous radio cast, headed by Gertrude Berg.

Fancy Pants

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

FACT: Bob Hope is in the west again in his hilarious successor to "The Paleface" which has bettered both that hit and "Sorrowful Jones" in a majority of its engagements to date.

The Furies

FACT: Boxoffice Magazine predicted: "Runs of this Hal Wallis picture should be modern El Dorado"—and actual key city results now show it at levels comparable to top 1949 figures.

Dark City

FACT: First engagements fine! Fans are acclaiming the new Hal Wallis discovery, Charlton Heston, and a cast of important marquee stars in suspenseful 3-man manhunt.

Let's Dance

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

FACT: "Let's Dance" are the two little words Fred Astaire says to that "Annie" gal, Betty Hutton. They're the most exciting star team in a long time. Play them Thanksgiving!

Branded

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

FACT: Here's the Alan Ladd western in color by Technicolor that you have been waiting for ever since "Whispering Smith"! It's the hit Paramount has for you for early in the New Year.

September Affair

FACT: Hal Wallis stars Joan Fontaine and Joseph Cotten in an ecstatic love story filmed on the spot in romantic places like Capri, Rome and Florence. Other big-name stars, too!

PLAY RIGHT AWAY . . . CASSINO TO KOREA . . . Full-length feature of America's fighting men

AT THE SIMON MERETSKY TESTIMONIAL DINNER

TOP: Hon. W. Greisinger, Ont. Minister of Planning and Development, Simon Meretsky and Mayor Arthur J. Reaume of Windsor. **LEFT:** Ray Lewis, president of the Pioneers watches as H. H. Sumner of Windsor presents Simon with his portrait, on behalf of his employees in Paramount-Windsor theatres. **RIGHT:** Windsor managers Ed Lamoureux and J. J. Lefave, and Eugene Fitzgibbons, successor to Simon Meretsky, supervising Paramount-Windsor theatres. **CENTRE:** Ed Dale presents Simon Meretsky with honorary life-membership card in ITASE Local 580 of Windsor. **BOTTOM:** Bill Singleton of ASN renewing old acquaintance with J. J. Lefave, R. E. Knevels and E. C. Goldin of Windsor.

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Windsor and Detroit. There was a special table for Eugene Fitzgibbons and the other Windsor managers of the Windsor Theatres Ltd., now owned by Famous Players Canadian Corp., which recently acquired the Simon Meretsky theatre interests.

Ed. Lamoureux and Bob Knevels, Miss Helen Mitchell and J. J. Lefave, who have been with Simon Meretsky for many years in the operation of his Windsor Theatres, were most welcome guests.

Seated at the Speaker's table were Simon Meretsky, the Hon. Paul Martin M.P., Minister of Health and National Welfare, the Hon. William Griesinger, M.P.P., Minister of Planning and Development, Mayor Arthur J. Reaume of Windsor, Lt. Col. David Croll, M.P., Mrs. Morris Stein and Morris Stein, Toast Master and immediate past president of the Pioneers and an executive officer of Famous Players, M. M. Sumner of Windsor, representing B'nai B'rith and Windsor Theatres Employees, Ed. Dale, representing the Projectionists' Union of Windsor, Mrs. Oscar R. Hanson and Oscar Hanson, the latter one of the original founders and past-president of the Pioneers, at present vice-president and life-trustee of the Canadian Motion Picture Industry's Benevolent Fund, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Bolstad, Vice-Pres. and Treas. of Famous Players Canadian Corp., Stuart Fleming of St. Catharines, partner-affiliate of the Famous Players Can. Corp., Ray Lewis, the president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, and a partner affiliate of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

AT THE other head-table, Donald Brown M.P., Mayor Archie Mason of Springhill N.S., member of Parliament, Nova Scotia Legislature, President of Maritimes Division of Pioneers, Secretary of Canadian Motion Picture Industry's Council, and an officer of the Maritimes Allied Association, Mrs. Frank Stanley and Frank Stanley, Vice-Pres. of the Bank of Commerce, Toronto, formerly of Windsor, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller of St. Catharines; Bill Singleton of A.S.N.; Mrs. Norman Robertson and Norman Robertson K.C., member of the Board of Directors of Famous Players; Eli Goldin, philanthropist and businessman of Windsor, and an old friend of Simon Meretsky; Leo Devaney, Past-Pres. of Canadian Picture Pioneers and Canadian General Manager of RKO-Radio Pictures; Mrs. O. J. Silverthorne and O. J. Silverthorne, Chairman of Theatre Inspection and Board of Censors for Ontario.

The President proposed the toast to His Majesty The King and as a tribute to a good neighbor-nation, a toast to President Truman of the United States. The head-table guests were introduced by the president, following which the dinner proceeded. Morris Stein in his usual capable manner introduced each speaker in turn, making some brief comment in connection with their respective addresses. His remarks were pungent, to the point and pleasing to the ear.

IT WOULD be difficult to single out any one speaker for particular emphasis, all of the speeches were good, very good. All were directed in the manner of a tribute to Simon Meretsky, but not one speaker strained for such effect, what each had to say they said in a manner which revealed a warm friendship for Simon, a respect and admiration for his achievements, and a concern for his general well-being. Here were assembled men of distinction holding high office in public life, who gave their time to be present to pay a tribute to Simon Meretsky, and indirectly to the motion picture industry with which Simon has for so many years been identified.

All of the speakers spoke of his courage, his integrity, his generosity, his devotion to the Jewish Faith, his respect and consideration for the good of other faiths, his philanthropies and charity toward people of all races, creeds and colour. Mayor Reaume of Windsor mentioned in particular how much Simon has done for the people of the African race who were citizens of Windsor, how he helped them to receive recognition and employment, and Simon in his characteristic manner leaned over toward me, and whispered one of the many asides which the mike did not get, "I'm a member of the colored peoples' church, I pay dues every year."

OSCAR Hanson was the first speaker, and gave a brief history of the formation of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, stressing its services during the War Years, and its services as a Fraternal and Benevolent organization, for it was the Pioneers who were, in the words of an officer of the National War Finance Committee of the National Government, responsible for making the people of Canada War-Savings Stamp conscious. It was the Pioneers who formed the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee which later became a Motion Picture Section of the National War Finance Committee; it was the Pioneers who organized a campaign for the Lord Mayor of London's Bombed Victims' Fund, sending through one Pioneer event (a rodeo) $25,000 as a contribution.

The Pioneers organized and established the first Industry's Benevolent Fund, through which Fund members of the industry, referred to only as Case No. 1, 2, 3, etc., are given hospitalization, emergency aid, etc.

Oscar Hanson paid tribute to its founders, its original life-members, and its first president, the late Clair Hague. He announced that it now had a membership of 588, with branches in every key exchange centre in Canada, and that it was proud to retain for itself the office which had been long ago bestowed on it, "The Senate of the Industry."

THE Hon. David Croll was a most interesting speaker. He has an easy manner of speaking, and said many interesting things concerning Simon, revealing his affection for a man with whom he practically grew up, but in order to cover a great deal of territory, as we say in our own Motion Picture vernacular, I must confine myself, as a reporter, to a few excerpts from each of the Pioneers head-table speakers.

"To two generations of Windsorites," said Mr. Croll, "Simon has been Mr. Entertainment and Mr. Moving Picture. For as many years as I can remember, it did not make any difference if it was a Catholic priest, a Jewish Rabbi or a Protestant minister, he always found his way to Simon's door when the need was great, and he always got something." In concluding his address, David Croll said, "Famous Players think that they have bought out Simon's interest in the Windsor Theatres. Well, nobody in Windsor believes that — and nobody will believe it for a long time to come. In honoring Simon Meretsky the Pioneers have honored themselves."

The Hon. W. Griesinger added his warm words of tribute to Simon whom he singled out as an outstanding citizen of Windsor and of Canada.

MAYOR Arthur Reaume of Windsor received a most cordial greeting from not only the Windsorites who were present, but Torontonians who enjoyed his refer-

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RAY PRESENTS

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ences to Toronto The Good as much as they did his references to Windsor, "not as big a city as Toronto," said Mayor Reaume, "but we sure make things hum there."

In referring to Simon as a part of Windsor, Mayor Reaume added, "When you see him walking down the street, with that big cigar in his mouth, a plug hat, and his coat unbuttoned, in the morning, greeting all he meets in a friendly way, that is typical of the city you have heard so much about . . . The People of Windsor, 130,000 strong, would want me to say that we have gotten past the stage of respecting Simon, we admire him, and they join me in hoping and praying that, even when he is gone, wherever his kind are, if they are looking for a home, they choose Windsor. We can use more Simons in that community and I'm sure you can in Toronto The Good."

M. M. SUMNER made a choice address, representing two groups of Windsor residents, for two presentations, the first an oil painting, a portrait of Simon from the former employees of Simon, painted by a local artist, Harry Zeilig of Windsor; and a Testimonial Parchment Scroll from Windsor Lodge 1011 B'nai B'rith. Sumner's address was an oration, couched in what I might call prose-English, and yet right down to earth in its summary of the realities of life's humanities, as lived and expressed in the life of Simon Meretsky.

Ed Dale of the Projectionists Union 580 IATSE, presented Simon with a gold membership plate in the operators' Union.

The portrait from the former employees, and the Union membership are about the most concrete picture any man might get of the character and conduct of Simon Meretsky as an employer, and are indicative of the general character of this man, whom many called The Big Boss.

Ed Dale said but a few words, but brief as was his presentation, it was sufficiently long to convey the message which was intended.

MORRIS Stein here interjected a merry note, for he said, "If the Union ever appoints Simon as its bargaining agent, you can imagine the contract Simon will get for the operators."

A cable was read from Barney Balaban and John Fitzgibbons eulogizing Simon's showmanship ability and expressing appreciation for the long years of the partnership association.

Telegrams were read from Arthur Hirsch of Consolidated, from F. G. Spencer, from Steve Broidy, Pres. of Monogram Pictures, from George Ganetakos, all expressing regrets at not being able to be present on such a memorable occasion.

There were many other letters and telegrams received from admirers and friends of Simon, from Windsor, from the United States, from Spyros Skouras, from Ned Depinet, from Martin Quigley and from Jack Cohn, who until a few days prior to the Testimonial Dinner, was to have attended, but was obliged to leave for Hollywood on an important conference. Special meetings prevented the other guests mentioned from attending. Mayor McCallum of Toronto came in during the early part of the evening, but was obliged to leave before the dinner because of a scheduled meeting for that evening.

STUART Fleming was the speaker who followed the presentations. He congratulated Simon on behalf of his colleagues the Famous Players partners, and stated that it was a privilege to pay tribute to Simon whom he had known for so many years, and who was, as evidently seen, an outstanding showman and an outstanding citizen of Canada. As co-host with George Ganetakos, Clarence Markell, Tony Saso, Sam Bloom, Sam Fine, T. M. Sterling, Ray Lewis, Nat Taylor and associates, Jules Allen, Herb Allen and Premier Associates, Arthur Hirsch and other Famous Players partners, for the cocktail party, "we all feel that Simon is a rare individual, a personality whom we shall greatly miss from our partners' meetings, and we wish for Simon good health, long life and a continuance of activity, because we know that doing things is life to Simon."

The Hon. Paul Martin announced that he had a gift of $1,000 presented by an anonymous giver as a tribute to Simon Meretsky for the Benevolent Fund. Mr. Martin spoke of his long friendship with Simon, there was a warmness, a noticeable affection and regard as he looked at Simon, and talked about him, recalling many little and important incidents, indulging in reminiscences, anecdotes, as an example, a trip to Ottawa with Simon, and an interview with the late Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King.

MR. MARTIN said, "While we were travelling to Ottawa, Simon frequently spoke of the Prime Minister, spoke of him with marked respect and admiration. I then decided that Simon should meet the Prime Minister, although Simon had indicated to me that they had met previously. The appointment with the Prime Minister was to last fifteen minutes, but we were with the Prime Minister for an hour. When Simon greeted the Prime Minister, it was not sufficient for Simon to tell him how great was his admiration for him, to shake hands, no, Simon walked around the desk of the Prime Minister and kissed him. I do not know who was more surprised, the Prime Minister or myself, and later I said to Simon, 'why did you kiss the Prime Minister?' Simon looked at me in astonishment and replied, "such a great man, didn't he deserve it?"

Mr. Martin recalled what the previous speakers had said of Simon, about being so much a part of Windsor, a city in which there are, as in the rest of Canada, people from many countries, all working under the same privileges of freedom and equality, all having the same opportunities to work as Simon had done, and to achieve his same success and distinction. "Yes," said Mr. Martin, "Simon is Windsor, with his five cent cigar in the corner of his mouth, not always does that cigar blow sweetly, his plug hat, and his unbuttoned coat open to the breeze, sailing down the streets of Windsor, stopping to say good morning or good evening to anyone and everyone, and saying it frequently, for everyone knows Simon, who in his theatre, and out of it, is always The Showman. A political meeting at Belle River is no success unless Simon Meretsky is one of the speakers, for this William Jennings Bryan of the Jewish faith is not what I might call a silver-tongued orator, but a leather-lunged orator, and a symbol of our own heritage."

THE Hon. Paul Martin is a forceful speaker, a speaker who makes it very easy and very enjoyable to listen to him, and to understand him, a man of dignity and a charm of manner, and with all the earmarks of a born statesman, already carrying the dignity of a greater distinction than he has as yet received.

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RAY PRESENTS

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Ray Lewis announced that Simon Meretsky had given her a check for five hundred dollars for the Pioneers, "Just a little mark of appreciation," said Simon, "to the Pioneers for the honor which they have given me."

The Canadian Picture Pioneers made a presentation of a leather-bound booking-book to Simon, engraved in gold letters commemorating the Testimonial Dinner to him, the time and the place, and on the cover was a life-membership plate of the Pioneers. On the inside cover was a caricature painting of Simon, bowler hat and cigar, by Lyle Glover, artist, through the courtesy of Odeon Theatres of Canada Limited, and through the pages were autographs and greetings from distinguished guests who were present at the dinner, from Pioneers and their guests.

SIMON, in person, was the last speaker, and never was he in better form as he gave a brief history of his career, his immigration to Canada with his parents from Russia, his starting to work at the age of thirteen, peddling carpets, trading in junk, acquiring two hundred dollars, and at the age of seventeen, being given a personal loan by the manager of the Bank of Commerce at Windsor, who had been taking note of his visits to the bank.

Simon told the story of his interview with the bank-manager, who had asked him how he was getting along, and how he had replied, "If I had another $200, I would get along much better and faster." Simon was a minor and could not sign a note, but the bank manager had said, "I will loan you the $200 myself, how will you have the money?" Simon said, "In one dollar bills," and when the teller handed him four packages of $50.00 each, Simon stood there and counted the packages dollar by dollar.

On leaving the bank, the manager called out to him, "Come here Simon. You know you are going to pay back that money," whereupon Simon said, "How do you know?," to which the bank manager replied, "If you had not intended to pay it back, you would not have counted the money so carefully!"

THERE came a time when Simon owed that bank $400,000 and his credit was good. Then came his story of his association with motion pictures. "Every theatre I took had a sickness," said Simon, "the Palace theatre in Windsor had consumption, but I cured it; the Capitol Theatre had cancer, but I cured it. I, Simon Meretsky, but the newspapers helped me, I tell you, I was always a believer in advertising, why the newspapers are the fertilizers of good business." This created a wave of laughter which stopped Simon for about a minute, for the Windsor Star had sent down a feature-writer and cameramen, and it took some time before Simon could explain what he meant by fertilizers.

"I don't care how good your land is, you have to feed the soil, feed it with fertilizer to get a good crop, the newspapers fertilized my theatres," said Simon, "and gave me a good crop of business.

WHEN I came back to Toronto and told N. L. Nathanson I wanted to take another theatre, Mr. Nathanson said to me, "Go ahead Simon, you can do business for me any day."

"Yes, I have made money, thousands of dollars, but I have lost almost ninety cents of every dollar which I have made; the only difference between me and some others is that where they made $10, I made $100; where they made a $100, I made $1,000, so my losses did not hurt me, but for every dollar which I have saved, I have taxed myself 25% for charity, for benevolence, and thank God I have been always able to pay that tax which I put on myself."

I wish that my wife, Nellie, was here with me to share this honour which you have given me. Only a few months ago, my wife said to me, 'Simon, stop working, we and our children have enough, I do not want to be the widow of the richest man in the cemetery, so I decided to retire from business. Now Nellie is gone, but the Lord has been good to me, and I must not complain. I have a fine son, a fine daughter, good son-in-law and daughter-in-law, my children are going my way, they are interested not only in their own family but in others. I have fine grandchildren. I have many fine friends, and tonight you have shown me the real reward for all my labours, you have made me very happy, and as long as my eyes are open I will not forget tonight, and what you and my friends, what so many distinguished people have said to me and about me. I thank you, and all who have worked so hard to make this evening a grand affair."

AS President of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, on behalf of its officers, its Board of Directors, I wish to extend our thanks to our distinguished speakers of the evening, to Morris Stein, who did such an able job for us, to Oscar Hanson who gave so much of his time toward organizing the Testimonial Dinner, to Stuart Fleming and the Famous Players associates who were co-hosts for the cocktail party, to Archie Laurie, of Odeon Theatres of Canada Limited for his tireless work and cooperation, to John Heggie, Don Gauld, Curly Posen, Walter Kennedy and the other members of the ticket-committee, to Micheli, Maitre D. of the King Edward Hotel for a good dinner, and the cooperative arrangements, to Larry Graburn of Odeon Theatres for his cooperation, to Johnny Poole for his good work.

Our thanks to the friends of Simon, the theatre managers who came from Windsor to pay tribute with us, and our special thanks to B. E. Norrish and his associates for their cooperation, and to the Windsor Star which gave to this Testimonial Dinner to Simon Meretsky several pages of pictures of the Testimonial Dinner and a fine presentation of its story. I have one correction to bring to the attention of the Windsor Star — Ray Lewis is not the wife of the president of the Pioneers, she is The President.

The dinner closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne led by Len Bishop, and to Simon we say, "Come and see us when you can, for old acquaintance and friends never should be forgotten."

Capital Story

By BILL McLAUGHLIN

LOCAL No. 440 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators held a most enjoyable dinner at El Begrano Lodge, a few miles out of Saint John, N.B., when the speaker was James Whitebone, Business Agent for the Branch and Vice-President for New Brunswick of the Canadian Federation of Labor. The President of the Local Branch, Aubrey Sprague, was Chairman and the speaker was introduced by W. Monte Chase of the Paramount Theatre. Seventy-five guests were present including local theatre managers and their wives.

* * *

David Griesdorf, Toronto, General Manager of Odeon Theatres was in Saint John for a day in conference with A. I. Garson, Odeon's Maritime representative.

Walter R. Golding has been allowed to re-open his Community Theatre in West Saint John following a fire which destroyed the flooring of the theatre but which occurred in an underneath room, no blame being attached to the theatre. Much praise was given publicly for the able manner in which the large audience of children was dismissed and mothers will feel no fear in confiding their young people to the care of the manager and staff of the Community.

* * *

Jack Bellemy and staff of the Saint John office of Empire-Universal are very happy over this Branch winning the first place in the Big Push Drive and making the highest record, we understand, of any Branch in any drive, "Good work on part of all," Jack says.

A largely attended private showing of RKO's Treasure Island and Beaver Valley was held at the Capitol Theatre recently at which James Mitchell welcomed a number of guests who were loud in their praises of this fine program. The public showing at the Capitol of these two really great films is drawing large crowds and many young people are thronging to see the fine presentation. Both features are "Tops" and should be recommended at all possible times. Radio announcements call attention to the pictures daily.

* * *

The marriage took place of Miss Betty Cunningham of the staff of Empire-Universal and Ward Haines. The Saint John staff threw a party and screening for the young couple and a gift was presented to them. They had a honeymoon by motor to the U.-S. and will reside in Saint John.

* * *

Warner Bros. Tea For Two has a good tie-up with G. E. Barbour Co. Ltd. whose King Cole Tea is popular in the Maritimes and elsewhere. Barbours are giving away ten thousand tea bags, one to each parton, at the Strand Theatre (Odeon), Saint John, every afternoon of the week-long date and as well, three lucky ladies, every afternoon have free afternoon teas presented to them at Ken Grass' Tearoom in the M.R.&A. store on King Street. M. Komar, manager for Warner Bros. and William Nash, manager at the Strand, are most enthusiastic over these tie-ups and the feature.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Williams of Chipman, N.B., have just returned from a five week trip which included visits to Seattle and Wenatchee, Wash., Regina, Vancouver and Toronto, Ont. Mr. and Mrs. Williams operate the Capitol Theatre at Chipman, N.B. During their absence, the Capitol was managed by F. McAllister.

Trans-Canada Showings

Use This Information As Your Guide on Release Dates

TORONTO

DOWNTOWN
Mystery Street (MGM) and State Penitentiary (Col.).

EGLINTON-VICTORIA
Reap the Wild Wind (Para.) Technicolor, and Saigon (Para.).

IMPERIAL
711 Ocean Drive (Col.) with Edmond O'Brien and Joanne Dru.

UPTOWN
Stars In My Crown (MGM) with Joel McCrea and Ellen Drew.

ODEON-CARLTON
Prelude To Fame (EL) with Guy Rolfe and Kathleen Byron.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
Ninth Week. The Happiest Days of Your Life (EL) with Alastair Sim.

TOWNE CINEMA
Second Week. City Lights (UA) Charlie Chaplin.

UNIVERSITY-NORTOWN
All About Eve (20th-Fox) with Bette Davis and Ann Baxter.

SHEA'S
Walk Softly Stranger (RKO) with Joseph Cotin and Valli.

LOEW'S
Second Week. A Life of Her Own (MGM) with Lana Turner and Ray Milland.

HYLAND
Second Week. Trio (Para.) with Ann Crawford and Roland Culver.

SAINT JOHN

PARAMOUNT
Summer Stock (MGM) Technicolor with Judy Garland and Gene Kelly.

CAPITOL
Treasure Island (RKO) Technicolor with Judy Driscoll and Robert Newton.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
The Damned Don't Cry (WB) with Joan Crawford and David Brian.

PALACE
Dark City (Para.) with Lizabeth Scott and Charlton Heston.

GRAND
The Great Dan Patch (UA) with Gail Russel.

STRAND
Stars In My Crown (MGM) with Joel McCrea and Ellen Drew.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
No Way Out (20th-Fox) with Richard Widmark and Linda Darnell.

IMPERIAL
Captive Girl (Col.) and Customs Agent (Col.)

LOEW'S
My Blue Heaven (20th-Fox) Technicolor with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey.

PALACE
Second Week. A Life of Her Own (MGM) with Lana Turner and Ray Milland.

SNOWDON-OUTREMONT
Second Week. Beau Geste (Para.) and The Lives of a Bengal Lancer (Para.).

AVENUE
Fifth Week. They Were Not Divided (EL).

PRINCESS
Devil's Doorway (MGM) with Robert Taylor and Louis Calhern.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
Copper Canyon (Para.) Technicolor with Ray Milland and Heddy Lamarr.

GAIETY
A Lady Without Passport (MGM) with Heddy Lamarr and John Hodiak.

LYCEUM
The Fireball (20th-Fox) with Mickey Rooney and Pat O'Brien.

MET
Summer Stock (MGM) Technicolor with Judy Garland and Gene Kelly.

ODEON
The Desert Hawk (E-U) Technicolor with Yvonne De Carlo and Richard Greene.

GARRICK
Second Week. Destination Moon (E-L) Technicolor with John Archer.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
A Life of Her Own (MGM) wiht Lana Turner and Ray Milland.

PLAZA-FRAZER
Convicted (Col.) and Sideshow (Mono.).

ORPHEUM
Right Cross (MGM) with June Allyson and Dick Powell.

STRAND
Crisis (MGM) with Cary Grant and Jose Ferrer.

VOGUE
The Sleeping City (E-U) with Richard Conte and Coleen Gray.

STUDIO
Bicycle Thief (UA).

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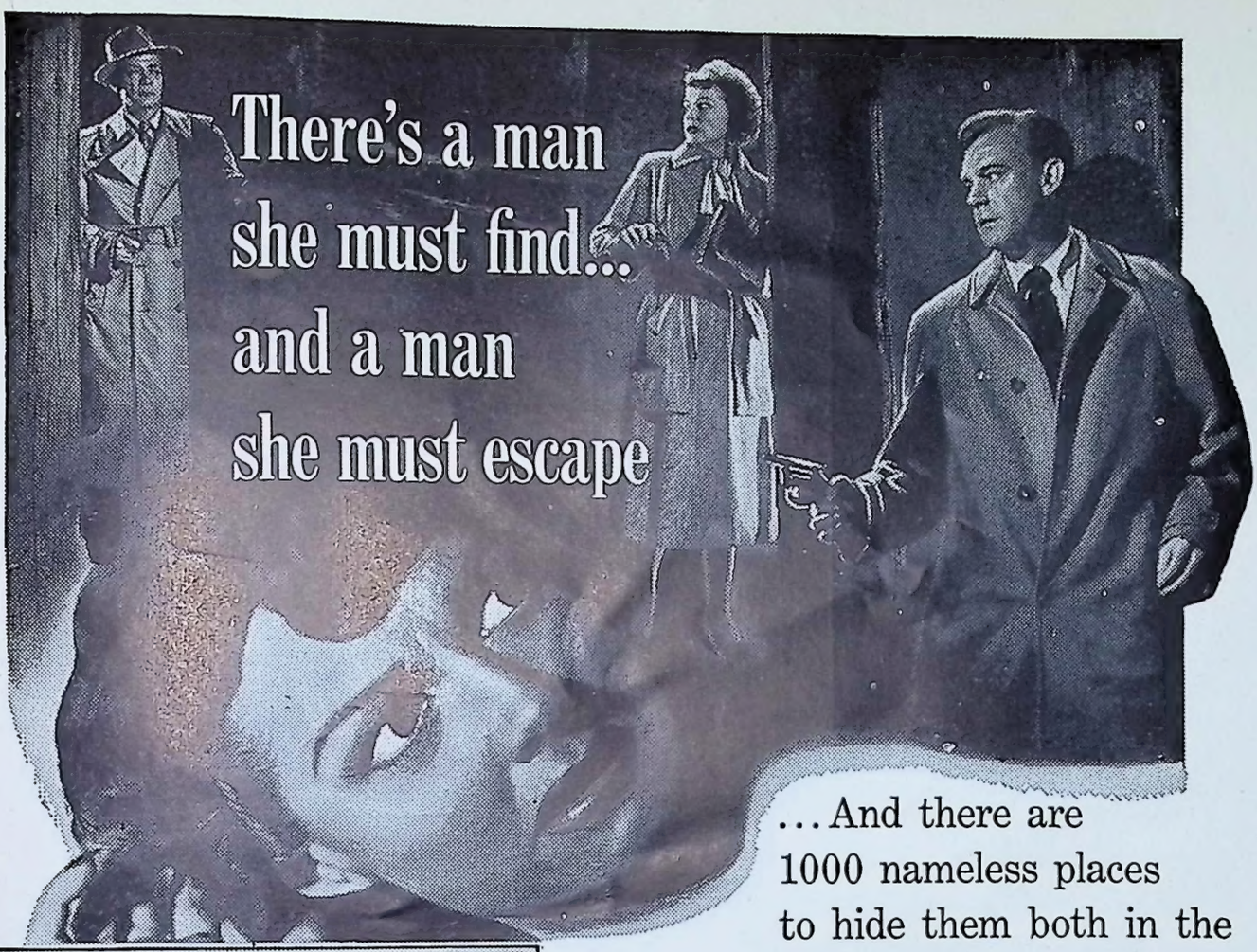

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